

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/790,908

Examiner

Charlie Peng

Applicant(s)

RINGGENBERG, PAUL D.

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to appeal brief filed on 28 October 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 29-50.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 20061218.  
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment  
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
**BRIAN HEALY**  
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

**DETAILED ACTION**

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with M. Smith, attorney for applicant, on 18 December 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

**1. Amend claim 29 as follows:**

29. An optical fiber well installation system, comprising:

a first assembly;

a second assembly used to convey the first assembly at least partially into the a

well;

an optical connector attached to each of the first and second assemblies, the optical connectors being connected in order to transmit light through the connected optical connectors between a first optical fiber section attached to the first assembly and a second optical fiber section attached to the second assembly; and

wherein the first and the second assemblies are releasably secured to each other, so that the first assembly is detachable from the second assembly within the well for retrieval of the second assembly from the well.

**2. Cancel claim 30.**

*approved  
for  
entry  
12/21/06*

**3. Amend claim 31 as follows:**

In claim 31, line 1, replace [claim 30] with --claim 29--.

**3. Amend claim 32 as follows:**

In claim 32, line 1, replace [claim 30] with --claim 29--.

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 29 is allowed. Maida teaches a system for deploying an optical fiber cable into a well having a first (sensor) assembly **34**, a second (wellhead) assembly **106**, wherein the wellhead assembly **106** deploys a down hole fiber optic cable **110** and the sensor assembly **34** into the well. However, Maida's invention does not have any capability towards the two assemblies being detachable from each other *within the well* for retrieval of the second assembly from the well, which is the critical improvement upon prior art of the instant application. Other relevant prior art discussing down-hole installation systems do not teach optical applications as required. It is this examiner's position that prior art taken alone or in combination does not render obvious the assemblies being detachable within the well, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claim.

Claims 31-50 are allowed as dependent claims of claim 29.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charlie Peng whose telephone number is (571) 272-2177. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am - 6 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

cyp

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Healy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**BRIAN HEALY  
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER**